

POVERTY AMONG THE POOREST-POOR
IN THE UNITED STATES: TRENDS
FOR NEVER-MARRIED WOMEN
AND THEIR CHILDREN

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we document levels and trends in poverty for never-married mothers and their children in the United States. Because roughly one-third of births between 1995 and 2000 were to unmarried mothers, our estimates are relevant to the poverty experience of a substantial proportion of recent cohorts of children, who will, in turn, constitute a substantial fraction of the future adult population in the United States. Our results contribute to the large body of research on poverty in single female households by distinguishing between two groups of single mothers who exhibit substantially different behaviors—previously-married mothers and never-married mothers. We find substantially higher levels of poverty among never-married mothers and their children and conclude that for the last quarter of the twentieth century, they have constituted the poorest of the poor among demographic subgroups in the United States.

In this paper, we document levels and trends in poverty for never-married mothers and their children in the United States, and contrast their poverty experience with that of other demographic groups. Because roughly one-third of births between 1995 and 2000 were to unmarried mothers, our estimates are relevant to the poverty experience of a substantial proportion of recent cohorts of children, who will, in turn, constitute a substantial fraction of the future U.S. adult population. As such, our results complement the large body of research on poverty in single female households by distinguishing between two groups of single mothers who exhibit substantially different behaviors—previously-married and never-married mothers. Our results show substantially higher levels of poverty among never-married mothers and their children. These results lead us to conclude that for the last quarter of the twentieth century, unmarried women and their children have constituted the poorest of the poor among demographic subgroups in the United States.

The study of poverty is but one facet of the larger field of inequality over the life course and of social inequality more generally, but the issue of poverty has been of enduring interest to social scientists studying social inequality. Sociologists have long held the social standing of individuals at birth to be a key factor shaping later adult outcomes (Blau and Duncan 1967; Featherman and Hauser 1978; Jencks 1972). With this traditional emphasis has been an increasing recognition that the demographic bases of poverty have shifted dramatically in the last half-century, shifting from elderly populations to women and children (see, e.g., Preston 1984; Danziger and Gottschalk 1995; Bianchi 1999; Iceland 2006). As a result, social scientists have paid increasing attention to issues of family structure, and in particular, to the situation of unmarried women and their children, when studying poverty (see, e.g., Bane and Ellwood 1986; Harris 1993; McLanahan and Sandefur 1994; Ellwood and Jencks 2004) and social inequality (Karoly 1993; Lichter 1995; Martin 2006).

Trends in poverty have been a persistent focus within this literature, with tabulations of poverty status for single mothers and their children appearing with great frequency in both official census publications, (see, e.g., Dalaker 2001) and in studies by numerous social scientists (see, e.g., Bane 1986; Danziger and Weinberg 1994; Hernandez 1997; Burtless and Smeeding

2002; Reed and Cancian 2002; Iceland 2006). Yet surprisingly, we know little about trends in poverty for never-married mothers and their children, despite substantial interest in this population by social scientists (Wilson 1987; Moffitt 1998; Bumpass and Lu 2000; Wu and Wolfe 2001; Ellwood and Jencks 2004) and policy commentators (Gilder 1986; Blankenhorn 1995; Popenoe 1996; Haskins 2004).¹ Thus, our knowledge of trends in poverty remains tightly tied to traditional census classifications of mothers and families—that is, to women and children residing in single female-headed households. This continued emphasis on women and children in single female-headed households is surprising in that it conflates at two groups of mothers who exhibit substantially different behaviors—previously-married and never-married mothers.²

In this paper, we seek to fill this gap in our knowledge by estimating poverty trends for never-married mothers and their children. We document substantially higher levels of poverty for this group relative to other groups defined by standard demographic characteristics for the period between 1975 and 2000. Based on this evidence, we conclude that for the last quarter of the twentieth century, never-married mothers and their children have constituted the poorest of the poor among demographic subgroups in the United States.

DATA

We use data from the income supplements contained in the March Current Population Survey

¹To date, we have been able to locate only two sources providing data on poverty for never-married mothers and their children. Table 6 in the P-20 series of *Current Population Reports* on Marital Status and Living Arrangements contains one entry providing poverty levels for children under 18 years of age who live with an unmarried mother by race and ethnicity. Estimates for 1994–98 are available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/marital.html>. A second source is a recent publication by Martin (2006), in which she reports that 87% of families headed by never-married mothers fell into the bottom quintile of the U.S. income distribution.

²Distinguishing between ever-married women and never-married women provides only a rough division of women and their children, in that for any woman, marital and nonmarital fertility are not mutually exclusive since women with two or more children can give birth both inside and outside of formal marriage. Nevertheless, there is a strong consensus among social scientists that these two groups are behaviorally distinct with, for example, the vast majority of divorced mothers bearing their children while married and continuing to bear subsequent children within (re)marriage (Wu and Martin 2006), while a substantial fraction of never-married mothers will continue to bear children outside of formal marriage (see, e.g., Ventura et al. 1995; Wu, Bumpass, and Musick 2001; Wu and Martin 2006).

(CPS), which are the same data used by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in their official tabulations of poverty. The CPS sample universe consists of the U.S. civilian non-institutional population aged 15 and older and hence provide a largely nationally representative sample of the U.S. population spanning several decades. We use data from the 1976-2001 March CPS income supplements, which provides data on household and individual incomes for the previous calendar year; thus, our results on trends in poverty cover the 26-year period from 1975 to 2000.

The CPS employs no oversampling of racial or ethnic minorities; however, the relatively large sampling frame provides sufficient sample sizes in our analyses, even when we stratify our analyses by period, family structure, race, and ethnicity. Throughout, the racial and ethnic categories of white, black, and Hispanic refer to the mutually exclusive categories of non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, and Hispanics of all races.

The definition of poverty we employ throughout the paper is the standard “Olshansky” measure, which is (roughly speaking) an absolute snapshot measure of poverty heavily used both in official census publications and by social scientists. This measure has been criticized, both for the conceptualization of poverty inherent in this measure and for how poverty is specifically operationalized when using the official census poverty threshold have been (see, e.g., Citro and Michael 1995; Short, Garner, Johnson, and Doyle 1999 Mayer and Sullivan 2006). But because little information on poverty trends is available for never-married mothers and their children, we use this measure so as to calibrate and compare our poverty estimates both with published census estimates and estimates in numerous previous studies.

RESULTS

Figure 1 shows that increases in nonmarital fertility have affected the circumstances at birth for increasing numbers of children over the last quarter of the twentieth century. Since 1995, roughly one of every three births has been to an unmarried women, with slightly more than one of every four births for white women and just under seven out of every ten births for black women.

As a consequence, births to unmarried women constitute a substantial proportion of all births, particularly among blacks.

[Figure 1 about here]

Figure 2 shows that trends in mean age at first birth differ substantially for married and unmarried women. To obtain these estimates, we have used detailed data from vital registration on U.S. births to calculate women's mean age at first birth for married and unmarried women. In contrast to Figure 1, which shows marked black/white differences, Figure 2 reveals negligible black/white differences in women's mean age at first birth, *conditional* on marital status at first birth. In 1975, mean age at first birth was roughly 22 and 19 for married and unmarried mothers, respectively, for both blacks and whites; by 2000, mean age at first birth age was 27 and 21 for married and unmarried mothers, respectively, for both blacks and whites. Thus, while Figure 1 shows substantially higher levels of nonmarital fertility for blacks, Figure 2 shows that conditional on marital status at first birth, there are at best small black/white differences in the timing of a first birth, but substantial and increasing differences in timing for women who have a first birth within versus outside of formal marriage.

[Figure 2 about here]

We begin our main analyses with an examination of poverty as experienced by individuals. In Table 1, we focus on three groups of individuals that have been routinely tabulated in census publications: all individuals and two groups of individuals who often experience high levels of poverty—single males (particularly single black males) and individuals residing in households headed by single females.

[Table 1 about here]

The first four column of Table 1 give trends in poverty for all individuals, with the first column giving the percentage of individual falling below the poverty line for all races, and the

next three columns giving corresponding percentages for whites, blacks, and Hispanics. Poverty fluctuated nonmonotonically between 1975 and 2000, with between 11 and 15 percent of all individuals in the U.S. living below the poverty line during this period. The next three columns show substantial variation in poverty by race and ethnicity, with blacks and Hispanics experiencing far higher levels of poverty than whites.

The next set of columns give poverty trends for individuals residing in single male-headed households, with most of these households comprising single person households—the single male. As expected, poverty rates for single black males are far higher than the overall poverty rates observed in column 1 of Table 1; however, poverty rates for single Hispanic males are close to those of single black males, with poverty rates for single Hispanic males even exceeding those for single black males in some years.

The last columns give poverty estimates for individuals residing in single female-headed households. Over much of this period, poverty levels in any of the groups of single female-headed households exceed even poverty for black and Hispanic single male-headed households—groups for which poverty levels are high. These results replicate the well-documented finding in the literature that for the last quarter of the twentieth century, individuals residing in single female-headed households comprised a demographic subpopulation marked by some of the highest levels of poverty in the United States.

Our poverty estimates for single black males refer to single black males of all ages, but poverty is highest for *young* black males, who have historically been subject to high rates of unemployment and low wages. To investigate this issue, Table 1a presents a modified version of Table 1, in which we have added poverty estimates for individuals residing in single black male 25 years or younger who are heads of households—with the majority of these households again consisting of only the single black male. Because the CPS employs no oversampling of blacks, our estimates for this group of young black males fluctuate more substantially than for other groups; hence, we restrict Table 1a to selected years.

[Table 1a about here]

Table 1a shows that poverty levels for young single black males (column labelled bla25) are indeed substantially higher than for single black males of all ages, but likewise, poverty for single black males is also notably lower than poverty for single black females. [Daniela - We will be showing Table 1a in our presentation, so have included it and some comments about it here.] We caution that estimating poverty for young single black males is complicated by the fact that the sampling of this population has been difficult both for the CPS and in the decennial census. Furthermore, anecdotal evidence suggests that identifying a single household residence for many young black males is likewise difficult. Finally, numerous studies have documented high incarceration rates for this population, particularly in the last decade. Because the CPS sampling frame is limited to the non-institutional U.S. population, incarcerated individuals are excluded from all CPS samples. It is thus possible that poverty among non-incarcerated young black males may understate poverty under a counterfactual scenario in which the incarcerated population were released and thus part of the CPS sampling frame of young black males.

Despite these issues, Table 1a shows lower levels of poverty for young single black male households relative to single black female households, and our subsequent results (see below) show that poverty in never-married mother-only households is substantially higher than poverty in single female households.

[Table 2 about here]

In Table 2, we compare our poverty estimates for selected groups with those from census publications (Dalaker 2001). Because census publications provide poverty estimates for all blacks, including Hispanic blacks, our poverty estimates for non-Hispanic blacks cannot be compared with census estimates; thus, our comparisons are limited to all individuals, non-Hispanic whites, and Hispanics. As Table 2 shows, although we cannot precisely replicate census estimates, our poverty estimates are typically very close to census poverty figures, differing from census figures by less

than a tenth of one percent for most years. Notable exceptions occur at the extreme ends of the 1975–2000 period, with the 1999 and 2000 estimates due to a recalibration of CPS weights by census using data from the 2000 decennial U.S. census.³

Thus far, we have hewed closely to past work by contrasting poverty levels and trends for demographic subgroups examined by census. In Figure 3, we move beyond traditional census subclassifications by decomposing single female-headed households into two groups—single female-headed households in which the female head has never married, and single female-headed households in which the female head has been previously married. To facilitate comparison, the top panel of Figure 3 plots trends in poverty for two groups we examined in Tables 1 and 2—all individuals (column 1 in Table 1) and individuals in single female-headed households (column 9 in Table 2). In addition, we decompose poverty trends in single female-headed households into poverty trends for ever-married female-headed households and never-married female-headed households.

[Figure 3 about here]

The top panel of Figure 3 shows that poverty calculated for all single female-headed households masks sharp differences in poverty for never-married and ever-married female-headed households. Poverty levels are far higher in never-married female-headed households than in ever-married female-headed households throughout the 1975–2000 period. The bottom panel of Figure 3 compares poverty for individuals in never-married female-headed households with poverty for all individuals (top line) and for individuals in ever-married female headed households (bottom line). These results show that, on average, individuals in never-married female-headed households were roughly 4 to 5 times more likely to be in poverty relative to a randomly chosen individual in the U.S. population; similarly, individuals in never-married female-headed households were, on average, about twice as likely to live below the poverty line as individuals in

³We plan to obtain revised March CPS data for 1999 and 2000 that reflect these revised weights, but in this paper use past public-release data from the 1999 and 2000 March CPS.

ever-married female-headed households throughout the 1975–2000 period.

The decline in poverty after 1996, shown in the top panel of Figure 3 coincides with the period following the enactment of PWRORA and welfare reform, and so might be interpreted as evidence that PWRORA was effective in reducing poverty, particularly in never-married female-headed households. However, the bottom panel of Figure 3 shows little trend in the likelihood of poverty for individuals in never-married female-headed households relative to all individuals or to individuals in ever-married female-headed households. Thus, our results suggest that after 1996, poverty was decreasing at approximately the same relative pace for *all* individuals.

In Figure 3, we presented trends for individuals of all races who fell below the standard poverty threshold. In Figure 4, we examine individuals in “near” and “deep” poverty, typically defined as individuals in households falling below 150% and 50% of the standard poverty threshold, respectively. We also present results for four racial and ethnic groups: individuals in all racial and ethnic groups, for non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, and Hispanics of all races. These results again show very high levels of poverty for individuals residing in never-married female-headed households. In 1975, near poverty was experienced by approximately 80% of individuals in households headed by never-married white or black females, with near poverty even higher for individuals residing in households headed by a never-married Hispanic female. By 2000, near poverty had declined substantially, with near poverty experienced by approximately 60% of whites, 65% blacks, and 80% of Hispanics living in households headed by a never-married woman.

[Figure 4 about here]

We also observe high levels of deep poverty, especially for individuals in households headed by never-married women, with trends in deep poverty peaking in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Between 20% to 30% of individuals in households headed by never-married women fell below 50% of the poverty line in 1975 and 2000, with deep poverty reaching a high of 32% for whites, 48% for blacks, and 43% for Hispanics.

We now turn attention to poverty trends for children. The top panel of Figure 5 presents poverty trends for children in: all households, single mother-headed households, ever-married mother-headed households, and never-married mother-headed households. For all children, poverty levels were under 20% throughout the period between 1975 and 2000, while for children in ever-married mother-only households, poverty levels fluctuate between 40 and 50% from 1975 to 1995, declining to 32% in 2000. For children in never-married mother-only families, poverty levels are well above 70% through 1993, declining to 50% in 2000.

[Figure 5 about here]

The bottom panel of calculates the ratio of poverty observed for children in never-married mother-only families to poverty for all children and for children in ever-married mother-only families. Although we observe considerable fluctuation in these poverty ratios, there is little observable trend, particularly for the period between 1985 and 2000. Children in never-married mother-only families are between 4 and 5 times more likely to live in poverty than the average child, and are roughly 50 to 80% more likely to live in poverty than children in ever-married mother-only families.

In Figure 6, we focus on near poverty for children residing in never-married mother-only families. Between 70 and 80% of white children and 80 and 90% of black children residing in never-married mother-only families were in near poverty between 1975 and 1997, with levels of near poverty declining by roughly 10 percentage points by 2000, to 60 and 70%, for white and black children, respectively. Levels of near poverty are highest for Hispanic children in never-married mother-only families, with 80 to 90% of these children in near poverty throughout the period between 1975 and 2000.

[Figure 6 about here]

DISCUSSION

In this paper, we have sought to complement the traditional focus on poverty trends for mother-only households by distinguishing between two behaviorally distinct groups of unmarried mothers: ever-married and never-married mothers. Despite intense interest in nonmarital fertility by both social scientists and policy makers, no systematic analysis of poverty for never-married mothers and their children has been undertaken to date. This paper is intended to fill this gap.

We document substantially higher levels of poverty for never-married mothers and their children for the period 1975–2000 for all racial and ethnic group, relative to other demographic subgroups. We find strikingly high levels of child poverty: from 1975 to 1997, between 70 and 80% of white children and 80 and 90% of black children residing in never-married mother-only families family incomes below 150% of the poverty line—commonly regarded as a measure of near poverty— with levels of near poverty declining by roughly 10 percentage points by 2000, to 60 and 70%, for white and black children, respectively. Levels of near poverty are highest for Hispanic children in never-married mother-only families, with 80 to 90% of these children in near poverty throughout the period between 1975 and 2000. Overall, our poverty estimates for the period between 1975 and 2000 suggest that poverty for never-married mothers and their children were higher than for any other identifiable demographic group, including young single black males. As such, never-married mothers and their children appear to have constituted the poorest of the poor among all demographic subgroups in the United States during the period spanning the last quarter of the twentieth century.

As noted above, our estimates show modest declines in poverty during the late 1990s for never-married mothers and their children, a period that coincided with the implementation of recent welfare reforms in the United States. Although the declining poverty we observe for never-married mothers and their children group might be interpreted as a response by these mothers to the incentives contained in PWRORA, we also find that poverty declined in all groups, including demographic groups thought to be less affected by PWRORA.

The high levels of poverty we find for never-married mothers and their children are of

particular concern given the sizeable numbers of births to unmarried mothers, with roughly 1 of every 3 births since 1995 occurring outside of formal marriage. The association between poverty and nonmarital fertility is complicated by the fact that the causal links between poverty and nonmarital fertility are likely to run in both directions, with nonmarital fertility likely to be a response by women to poor economic conditions, but with nonmarital fertility also increasing the likelihood that women who bear children outside of formal marriage will remain in poverty. Nevertheless, these issues have much less force from the perspective of infants and children, for whom circumstances at birth are exogenous given that they do not result from choice behaviors of children. As a consequence, the very high levels of poverty documented in this paper raise the prospect of systematic underinvestments for substantial numbers of recent cohorts of children born to unmarried women.

APPENDIX

In this appendix, we present tables providing detailed poverty estimates, both for individuals within households and for children.

Appendix Table 1: Poverty trends for individuals in single-mother households, all races, 1975–2000.

year	below 50% poverty			below 100% poverty			below 125% poverty			below 150% poverty		
	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married
1975	15.2%	13.3%	23.1%	41.9%	38.0%	67.3%	50.8%	47.1%	75.9%	58.0%	54.6%	81.5%
1976	12.8	10.5	21.4	41.6	37.4	69.4	49.5	45.3	78.3	56.6	52.7	84.3
1977	13.2	10.8	24.1	40.2	35.3	69.2	49.2	44.2	78.8	56.5	51.6	85.6
1978	15.0	12.8	25.5	39.2	34.6	66.4	46.8	42.0	73.8	53.2	48.5	79.4
1979	13.9	12.0	27.4	37.2	33.3	65.2	45.7	41.8	73.2	52.5	48.9	78.3
1980	15.9	13.6	31.7	39.5	35.0	70.2	47.1	42.6	77.3	54.0	49.8	82.3
1981	17.6	14.9	33.6	41.1	36.2	70.4	48.8	43.9	78.4	56.4	51.7	84.8
1982	20.0	16.8	38.1	43.3	37.9	73.9	50.6	45.4	80.1	57.3	52.6	83.6
1983	20.5	17.4	39.2	43.2	38.5	71.5	50.8	46.4	77.3	57.3	53.3	81.2
1984	19.5	15.7	39.7	41.0	35.3	70.5	47.7	42.3	76.2	54.9	49.6	82.3
1985	18.8	15.2	35.9	40.5	34.2	70.1	47.4	41.5	75.3	53.9	48.5	79.7
1986	20.6	16.2	40.1	41.5	35.4	68.5	48.9	42.7	75.8	54.4	48.2	81.4
1987	22.0	17.1	42.2	40.4	33.3	69.1	47.2	40.2	75.9	53.0	46.2	80.5
1988	22.8	18.6	39.0	39.9	33.3	65.2	46.8	40.5	71.0	53.0	46.9	76.7
1989	20.4	16.2	36.5	38.0	32.0	61.2	45.5	39.7	67.4	52.0	46.4	73.5
1990	21.8	16.4	39.7	40.0	32.4	65.2	47.4	39.9	72.1	52.8	45.5	77.1
1991	22.4	15.9	43.2	42.6	34.0	70.1	49.6	41.5	75.3	55.6	47.9	80.2
1992	24.0	18.4	40.8	41.7	33.3	67.5	48.8	40.5	74.2	54.9	46.9	79.2
1993	23.2	17.2	40.8	42.0	33.7	66.2	49.5	40.8	74.7	55.9	47.7	79.9
1994	22.3	16.3	40.0	41.0	33.5	63.4	48.5	41.0	70.9	54.8	47.3	77.0
1995	19.9	14.3	35.5	38.7	29.8	63.8	46.6	37.8	71.6	52.9	44.4	77.0
1996	20.3	14.3	35.3	37.9	28.7	60.9	45.9	36.8	68.9	52.7	43.8	75.3
1997	20.2	15.3	32.0	37.3	29.5	56.0	45.5	37.0	66.0	51.9	43.2	72.7
1998	18.5	13.9	29.5	35.2	27.3	54.2	44.0	35.4	64.5	50.4	41.6	71.2
1999	16.3	11.3	28.0	32.5	24.1	52.1	40.3	31.9	60.0	48.0	38.9	69.4
2000	14.2	10.2	23.4	30.2	23.1	46.3	38.4	30.5	56.5	46.3	38.2	64.8

Appendix Table 2: Poverty trends for individuals in white single-mother households, 1975–2000.

year	below 50% poverty			below 100% poverty			below 125% poverty			below 150% poverty		
	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married
1975	9.7%	9.4%	19.2%	28.7%	28.1%	57.7%	36.3%	35.6%	66.5%	43.6%	43.0%	69.4%
1976	8.6	8.4	15.7	27.4	26.6	60.5	33.9	33.1	69.4	41.7	40.9	77.9
1977	8.0	7.8	14.2	25.2	24.2	56.3	33.2	32.0	70.8	40.6	39.5	75.8
1978	8.5	8.2	17.1	24.4	23.4	55.2	31.2	30.2	62.6	37.6	36.5	69.5
1979	8.5	8.0	20.8	24.1	23.0	55.0	31.0	29.8	63.8	37.8	36.7	66.0
1980	9.3	8.8	21.1	26.7	25.0	61.9	33.4	31.6	68.8	39.5	37.9	71.9
1981	11.0	10.3	26.2	28.2	26.8	59.6	35.1	33.5	68.9	42.1	40.6	76.7
1982	12.5	11.4	32.2	28.9	27.1	61.9	36.0	34.0	71.7	43.0	41.1	77.3
1983	13.5	12.6	32.2	29.7	27.9	59.1	36.9	35.1	67.7	43.7	42.0	71.6
1984	11.5	10.2	33.0	27.1	24.7	64.9	33.5	31.1	71.5	40.1	37.7	77.8
1985	10.9	10.0	23.7	27.2	24.9	58.5	33.5	31.0	67.5	39.9	37.4	74.7
1986	12.9	11.6	28.6	28.9	26.3	61.3	35.3	32.6	68.5	40.4	37.7	73.5
1987	13.0	11.5	30.2	26.0	23.2	59.2	32.7	29.9	65.7	38.5	35.8	70.5
1988	13.1	11.9	24.9	26.3	23.6	54.6	33.4	30.6	62.3	39.5	36.4	70.8
1989	11.7	10.6	21.3	25.5	23.2	49.9	32.4	29.9	59.6	39.3	36.8	66.1
1990	13.4	11.5	30.5	27.8	24.7	55.4	34.4	31.2	62.2	39.9	36.7	67.5
1991	13.3	11.3	30.8	29.4	25.8	61.7	35.3	31.6	67.5	41.8	38.2	73.1
1992	14.8	12.8	32.4	27.9	24.5	58.2	34.4	30.9	65.8	40.5	37.2	69.8
1993	13.6	11.4	30.2	28.1	24.2	56.8	35.1	31.0	64.8	41.4	37.4	71.0
1994	13.5	11.4	28.1	28.2	24.8	51.8	35.1	31.5	59.5	40.8	37.1	66.5
1995	10.4	8.6	23.3	24.5	20.9	49.1	31.5	27.5	58.5	37.4	33.2	65.9
1996	12.8	10.1	28.3	25.2	20.8	53.3	32.0	27.3	61.0	38.7	33.9	67.8
1997	12.8	10.7	24.3	26.9	22.4	52.1	33.4	28.6	60.8	39.2	34.3	66.9
1998	10.7	9.0	19.7	23.4	19.9	42.5	30.8	26.6	53.3	36.9	32.5	60.1
1999	9.8	7.7	19.9	21.6	17.7	40.0	28.4	23.9	49.6	34.9	29.6	60.6
2000	8.4	6.9	16.3	20.0	16.3	38.5	26.8	22.8	47.3	34.8	30.6	56.0

Appendix Table 3: Poverty trends for individuals in black single-mother households, 1975–2000.

year	below 50% poverty			below 100% poverty			below 125% poverty			below 150% poverty		
	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married
1975	21.6%	21.1%	23.6%	57.0%	54.3%	68.7%	68.0%	65.7%	77.7%	75.4%	73.5%	83.8%
1976	16.3	14.4	24.0	58.1	55.1	70.0	68.3	65.8	78.2	75.1	72.9	84.1
1977	19.7	17.0	27.9	58.5	54.1	71.7	69.5	65.7	81.1	77.5	74.0	87.8
1978	23.1	20.9	29.5	56.8	53.2	67.2	65.5	62.3	74.7	72.0	69.2	80.0
1979	21.2	18.5	29.4	54.3	50.2	66.6	65.5	62.4	74.8	72.0	69.2	80.6
1980	25.3	21.7	35.6	55.2	49.0	72.8	63.5	57.7	79.9	71.4	66.7	84.7
1981	28.1	24.0	37.0	58.3	52.2	71.7	67.5	61.9	79.9	75.7	70.8	86.7
1982	31.1	26.2	42.0	60.9	54.3	75.6	68.3	62.8	80.6	74.1	69.8	83.6
1983	30.0	25.4	41.7	59.4	54.0	73.1	66.9	62.3	78.3	73.0	69.5	81.9
1984	29.5	23.1	42.9	56.7	49.7	71.5	64.5	58.8	76.8	72.7	67.7	83.3
1985	29.8	24.2	40.7	55.2	46.5	71.9	63.0	55.9	76.7	69.4	63.7	80.5
1986	32.2	24.9	45.1	56.5	49.3	69.3	64.5	57.6	76.7	71.0	64.2	82.9
1987	34.1	26.2	47.3	56.0	46.8	71.4	63.6	54.4	79.2	68.8	60.2	83.3
1988	33.7	27.1	44.4	53.8	45.1	67.5	60.6	53.1	72.6	66.9	60.1	77.7
1989	30.4	24.5	39.5	50.1	42.5	61.9	57.8	52.0	66.4	64.5	59.0	72.8
1990	32.0	24.0	43.4	52.0	41.2	67.0	60.5	50.6	74.2	65.3	55.1	79.6
1991	33.6	22.5	48.1	56.8	45.8	71.2	64.1	54.8	76.2	69.8	61.0	81.4
1992	35.4	27.9	44.9	56.1	46.4	68.5	63.5	54.5	75.0	69.5	60.9	80.6
1993	35.3	27.4	46.0	56.0	47.0	68.3	63.9	53.9	77.4	70.0	61.2	81.9
1994	31.0	21.4	44.5	52.3	42.2	66.5	60.3	50.8	73.8	67.4	58.5	79.8
1995	28.9	21.1	39.1	49.8	37.4	66.3	58.5	47.1	73.7	64.7	54.7	78.0
1996	28.1	18.4	38.8	47.7	34.2	62.5	57.5	45.6	70.3	64.6	53.2	76.8
1997	25.8	19.0	32.8	44.2	34.2	54.7	54.1	43.5	65.2	61.5	51.1	72.4
1998	24.6	18.3	31.3	44.8	34.1	56.2	55.7	45.2	66.9	61.5	50.9	73.0
1999	22.3	15.0	30.1	43.0	30.9	56.0	50.4	40.4	61.1	60.0	50.9	69.7
2000	18.9	14.3	23.4	39.9	31.8	47.7	48.8	40.0	57.4	56.2	47.7	64.4

Appendix Table 3: Poverty trends for individuals in Hispanic single-mother households, 1975–2000.

year	below 50% poverty			below 100% poverty			below 125% poverty			below 150% poverty		
	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married
1975	17.6%	16.5%	26.8%	58.8%	57.5%	69.3%	70.6%	70.0%	75.6%	77.1%	76.6%	81.6%
1976	13.0	12.8	13.9	59.4	56.6	75.4	70.2	67.2	88.0	75.5	72.8	91.4
1977	12.6	12.5	13.0	59.3	56.5	73.8	66.1	63.9	77.5	72.2	69.1	88.4
1978	16.8	17.9	11.2	59.4	55.8	76.5	66.4	62.7	84.3	71.7	68.3	88.1
1979	19.3	17.9	25.7	53.9	49.7	72.1	62.2	58.6	78.0	70.6	67.8	83.3
1980	20.0	19.1	25.2	57.3	54.9	71.3	66.6	64.5	78.7	73.5	70.8	88.5
1981	20.3	19.4	24.6	58.6	54.1	81.4	66.1	62.0	86.7	73.6	70.3	90.0
1982	25.4	24.8	28.4	63.1	58.5	83.9	71.7	67.3	91.0	78.7	75.3	93.8
1983	27.3	24.6	40.0	60.8	56.1	82.2	69.7	66.0	86.8	76.1	73.0	90.6
1984	28.7	27.4	34.9	59.6	56.2	75.7	65.7	62.0	83.2	72.9	70.0	86.6
1985	24.2	22.5	31.0	59.9	55.0	79.9	67.6	63.9	82.5	73.8	70.8	85.9
1986	24.8	21.7	35.0	56.0	50.9	73.2	65.5	60.9	81.0	70.1	65.5	85.5
1987	28.9	25.8	38.5	59.0	54.4	73.2	64.7	60.9	76.4	71.3	68.1	81.4
1988	35.1	33.9	39.0	58.5	54.0	73.0	64.9	60.4	79.6	70.8	67.1	82.8
1989	29.5	25.4	43.4	54.4	48.8	73.4	63.3	57.7	82.3	68.7	63.4	86.5
1990	27.8	23.9	39.3	56.2	49.6	75.6	63.5	57.3	81.8	70.0	65.4	83.5
1991	27.2	22.4	41.0	56.7	48.7	79.3	66.1	60.0	83.2	71.4	66.3	85.8
1992	28.3	24.6	37.0	55.8	47.8	75.2	64.2	57.3	80.6	70.7	65.1	84.1
1993	27.9	22.9	39.0	56.8	50.4	70.7	64.7	58.3	78.8	72.0	66.6	84.0
1994	31.1	27.2	40.5	57.6	53.5	67.8	65.6	61.2	76.5	72.3	68.1	82.4
1995	30.2	25.4	40.6	56.5	49.1	72.9	66.1	59.6	80.2	73.9	68.4	86.0
1996	29.1	24.9	36.4	56.9	51.3	66.7	66.0	60.5	75.7	73.3	68.6	81.6
1997	31.1	26.7	39.7	53.6	47.6	65.4	63.8	58.0	75.0	70.0	64.4	81.0
1998	28.5	23.9	37.4	49.7	42.5	63.7	58.6	51.8	71.7	67.3	60.7	80.1
1999	23.3	18.4	32.7	43.8	36.5	58.0	54.9	46.3	71.5	62.1	52.9	79.8
2000	22.2	16.6	32.3	40.8	33.9	53.4	52.5	44.2	67.5	61.3	52.0	78.0

Appendix Table 4: Trends in the percent of children below the poverty line by race and ethnicity, 1975–2000.

year	all races	white	black	Hispanic
1975	14.8%	10.3%	41.3%	32.7%
1976	13.9	9.3	40.2	30.1
1977	14.0	9.4	40.4	27.8
1978	13.7	9.0	40.7	26.9
1979	14.1	9.4	40.4	27.6
1980	15.7	11.1	41.1	33.0
1981	17.1	12.3	43.4	35.5
1982	18.7	13.7	46.4	39.2
1983	19.2	14.2	45.3	37.7
1984	18.2	12.9	45.6	39.3
1985	17.3	12.2	42.6	39.4
1986	17.0	12.2	41.6	37.2
1987	16.4	10.9	43.5	38.9
1988	15.8	10.4	42.1	37.5
1989	16.1	10.7	42.2	35.8
1990	16.9	11.5	43.7	38.5
1991	17.9	12.2	45.1	40.7
1992	18.1	12.1	46.3	39.4
1993	18.4	12.7	45.6	40.6
1994	17.2	11.7	43.3	41.9
1995	16.1	10.4	40.7	39.5
1996	15.7	10.3	38.6	40.0
1997	15.4	10.4	36.0	36.4
1998	14.9	9.8	37.0	33.8
1999	13.2	8.7	32.8	30.2
2000	12.8	8.7	30.2	28.2

Appendix Table 5: Poverty trends for children in single-mother households, all races, 1975–2000.

year	below 50% poverty			below 100% poverty			below 125% poverty			below 150% poverty		
	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married
1975	19.5	18.6	24.2	53.7	49.6	71.8	63.4	59.2	80.3	71.1	67.6	85.3
1976	15.7	14.7	24.4	52.7	48.3	73.3	61.1	56.5	82.0	68.1	63.9	86.7
1977	16.5	14.7	28.8	50.4	44.4	72.7	60.6	55.1	82.8	68.7	63.8	88.0
1978	19.8	17.9	29.8	51.0	45.3	70.8	59.3	53.9	78.7	65.8	60.8	83.9
1979	18.9	16.3	30.6	49.0	43.5	70.5	58.1	52.9	78.3	65.4	60.4	83.6
1980	22.1	18.8	36.4	51.4	44.3	74.6	59.5	52.6	80.5	66.1	59.8	84.8
1981	24.3	20.6	40.5	52.4	45.0	73.6	60.6	53.3	82.2	68.2	61.6	88.0
1982	27.8	23.6	44.5	56.6	48.7	77.1	64.2	57.0	83.0	70.8	64.5	85.9
1983	29.4	24.9	45.2	56.0	48.5	75.1	63.5	56.4	81.1	69.6	63.3	84.7
1984	28.5	22.1	46.1	55.4	45.8	77.0	62.3	53.8	81.3	69.2	61.3	86.7
1985	27.7	21.9	44.6	55.4	44.7	77.1	62.1	52.1	82.2	68.8	59.7	86.0
1986	29.9	23.9	46.8	55.8	46.7	74.4	63.6	54.5	81.6	68.7	59.9	86.4
1987	29.5	22.2	46.9	54.6	43.3	75.8	62.3	51.9	82.6	67.8	58.1	86.2
1988	30.9	23.4	44.8	54.1	43.8	71.1	62.2	53.1	77.2	68.2	59.4	82.7
1989	27.5	20.4	42.3	52.0	42.3	68.6	59.7	50.9	74.3	66.5	58.2	80.2
1990	29.2	21.0	45.7	54.9	43.3	72.8	62.6	52.1	78.7	67.8	58.0	82.9
1991	30.4	21.3	48.8	56.9	45.3	74.8	63.5	52.5	79.4	69.3	59.5	83.7
1992	32.3	25.6	46.4	56.0	44.6	73.6	63.3	52.0	79.2	69.1	59.1	83.4
1993	30.8	23.0	46.4	55.5	43.6	72.0	63.5	51.7	80.0	69.3	58.2	84.2
1994	29.9	20.0	45.6	54.3	42.2	69.6	61.9	50.5	76.0	68.0	57.0	82.0
1995	25.4	15.8	37.5	51.6	37.5	68.8	60.2	46.8	76.7	66.6	53.7	81.5
1996	27.4	18.6	39.0	50.8	36.2	66.8	59.1	45.4	74.3	65.8	52.2	80.8
1997	27.6	19.3	35.7	50.5	39.1	61.3	59.0	46.8	70.9	65.3	53.4	77.5
1998	25.0	17.8	31.4	47.7	36.1	58.6	56.7	44.4	69.2	63.3	51.3	75.1
1999	21.8	14.1	30.4	43.3	31.2	56.5	52.4	41.1	63.2	60.9	49.3	73.0
2000	19.6	13.6	24.6	41.4	32.3	49.8	50.6	40.5	58.8	59.6	49.9	67.4

Appendix Table 6: Poverty trends for children in white single-mother households, 1975–2000.

year	below 50% poverty			below 100% poverty			below 125% poverty			below 150% poverty		
	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married
1975	14.4	14.2	20.9	40.9	40.4	59.1	50.4	49.8	68.9	58.9	58.5	72.2
1976	12.8	12.8	15.5	39.1	38.5	62.7	46.9	46.3	71.5	55.2	54.6	79.4
1977	11.4	11.3	15.2	35.5	34.7	59.7	45.7	44.1	69.2	50.6	44.1	69.2
1978	12.6	12.4	18.9	35.4	34.4	58.3	43.6	42.7	66.0	51.4	50.5	72.9
1979	12.5	12.0	23.5	35.1	33.8	62.3	43.2	41.9	71.3	50.9	49.9	73.2
1980	14.0	13.3	24.4	37.7	35.9	66.3	45.6	43.8	73.4	52.4	50.8	76.4
1981	16.4	15.6	30.4	38.4	36.9	62.4	46.5	45.0	71.7	54.6	53.1	79.6
1982	19.3	18.2	35.2	42.0	40.1	66.1	49.9	48.0	75.7	57.6	55.9	80.5
1983	20.5	19.6	34.5	42.3	40.4	64.1	50.2	48.3	73.2	57.7	55.9	77.6
1984	18.1	16.4	37.9	40.6	37.6	72.7	48.3	45.5	79.0	55.6	53.0	83.9
1985	17.1	15.9	28.2	39.6	37.1	64.6	47.1	44.4	73.6	54.7	52.1	79.3
1986	20.2	18.9	31.6	42.1	39.4	66.6	49.8	46.9	74.4	55.5	52.9	78.9
1987	20.1	18.5	34.0	59.1	54.6	63.5	67.5	63.1	70.9	74.1	69.9	75.0
1988	19.8	18.7	27.9	58.6	54.8	59.0	67.9	64.1	67.3	74.7	70.7	75.5
1989	16.8	15.5	24.7	54.3	50.6	55.6	63.2	59.3	65.7	70.9	67.2	72.3
1990	20.3	17.7	36.2	61.4	55.5	62.2	69.8	64.2	68.7	76.4	71.0	73.6
1991	19.7	17.0	35.2	61.9	55.1	67.8	68.1	61.3	73.4	75.4	68.9	79.0
1992	21.6	19.5	34.7	62.2	56.5	63.9	70.1	64.2	72.2	77.0	71.7	75.4
1993	20.3	17.6	34.6	61.6	54.6	63.1	69.4	62.5	70.4	75.6	68.9	75.6
1994	19.4	17.3	30.7	59.0	53.7	56.6	66.8	61.5	64.0	73.2	67.8	71.5
1995	14.0	11.9	23.9	48.4	42.2	54.2	57.0	50.6	63.4	63.9	57.5	70.6
1996	19.0	15.6	32.9	55.5	46.7	60.9	63.7	54.7	69.3	70.5	61.4	75.8
1997	18.2	15.8	27.6	56.8	49.7	56.6	64.8	57.2	66.4	71.2	63.6	72.6
1998	15.5	13.9	21.5	49.3	44.2	47.5	57.5	51.6	54.2	64.4	58.0	54.2
1999	14.0	11.0	23.3	44.4	37.0	44.5	52.7	44.9	54.3	60.4	51.5	65.9
2000	12.4	10.7	18.1	42.0	36.5	41.9	50.4	44.7	51.0	60.3	54.7	60.5

Appendix Table 7: Poverty trends for children in black single-mother households, 1975–2000.

year	below 50% poverty			below 100% poverty			below 125% poverty			below 150% poverty		
	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married
1975	26.6	27.0	25.2	68.6	67.1	73.9	78.1	76.9	82.2	84.8	84.0	87.6
1976	20.1	18.3	25.9	68.1	66.0	74.9	77.1	75.1	83.4	82.4	80.8	87.6
1977	24.4	21.7	31.0	66.8	63.3	75.2	78.0	75.2	84.8	84.8	82.6	90.2
1978	29.2	28.0	32.2	67.8	65.7	72.9	76.6	74.8	81.0	81.7	80.0	85.7
1979	26.4	24.0	32.1	64.2	60.8	72.3	75.2	73.2	80.0	81.6	79.8	86.0
1980	33.0	29.9	39.4	66.1	61.0	76.8	73.8	69.6	82.5	80.2	76.9	87.1
1981	36.4	32.5	42.6	68.5	63.8	76.1	76.9	72.1	84.7	84.2	80.6	90.0
1982	40.0	35.4	47.6	71.9	66.8	80.1	79.5	76.0	85.1	84.5	82.6	87.5
1983	41.2	36.8	48.9	69.9	65.1	78.4	76.4	72.4	83.7	81.3	78.2	86.9
1984	40.2	34.1	48.7	69.1	62.6	78.6	75.9	71.4	82.4	82.5	78.9	87.8
1985	41.2	35.4	48.7	69.5	61.0	80.5	75.7	68.9	84.6	81.0	75.7	88.0
1986	43.7	37.0	51.4	69.6	63.6	76.5	77.3	71.9	83.6	81.7	75.9	88.5
1987	40.9	31.5	51.2	69.1	59.6	79.6	77.0	68.6	86.3	81.2	73.5	89.6
1988	41.8	34.1	50.4	67.1	60.1	74.9	74.2	68.9	80.3	79.3	74.2	84.9
1989	39.3	31.7	47.3	64.0	56.3	72.0	70.5	64.7	76.4	76.8	71.5	82.2
1990	39.7	29.2	49.3	67.0	55.9	76.9	74.4	64.9	82.8	78.3	68.7	86.8
1991	43.0	30.5	54.0	70.4	62.1	77.6	76.6	71.1	81.4	81.6	77.0	85.5
1992	44.9	38.5	50.5	69.5	61.5	76.6	75.1	68.1	81.3	80.5	74.7	85.6
1993	43.6	35.0	51.4	67.5	59.0	75.2	75.7	67.0	83.7	80.7	73.7	87.2
1994	38.9	26.2	51.0	65.1	55.5	74.3	72.9	64.7	80.6	78.9	71.4	86.2
1995	35.2	25.2	43.2	64.0	51.5	74.2	73.4	63.3	81.5	78.9	71.0	85.4
1996	35.4	25.8	42.4	60.2	47.4	69.2	69.7	59.7	76.6	76.7	67.1	83.3
1997	33.9	26.4	38.9	57.3	49.1	62.7	66.8	58.0	72.6	73.8	65.3	79.4
1998	32.2	27.4	35.4	57.6	49.4	62.7	68.3	60.4	73.4	74.5	67.8	78.8
1999	27.9	20.5	33.3	53.5	41.9	61.8	62.6	56.0	67.3	72.6	67.9	75.9
2000	24.2	20.1	27.0	50.3	45.5	53.5	59.1	54.1	62.5	67.3	62.5	70.7

Appendix Table 8: Poverty trends for children in Hispanic single-mother households, 1975–2000.

year	below 50% poverty			below 100% poverty			below 125% poverty			below 150% poverty		
	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married	all	divorced	never-married
1975	21.7	20.6	30.0	69.2	68.2	76.9	81.5	81.8	79.9	86.5	86.5	86.5
1976	15.6	15.8	14.4	69.3	66.9	80.8	79.4	76.8	92.4	85.0	82.7	96.1
1977	14.5	14.8	13.0	70.4	68.6	78.4	77.0	75.8	82.5	83.1	81.5	90.4
1978	21.2	23.4	12.3	70.6	67.7	82.4	76.9	74.1	88.1	81.7	79.5	90.8
1979	23.6	23.1	25.5	64.3	61.4	75.6	71.9	69.4	81.8	80.1	78.6	86.3
1980	25.1	24.4	28.7	67.9	65.9	77.7	77.2	75.5	85.6	83.1	81.7	89.9
1981	24.7	24.3	26.5	69.7	65.5	87.5	76.7	73.2	91.4	83.2	80.6	93.9
1982	29.1	28.6	31.0	73.3	69.4	87.5	80.1	76.2	93.8	85.9	83.1	96.1
1983	35.7	34.1	41.8	74.2	71.3	85.2	81.6	79.5	89.8	86.5	84.9	93.0
1984	36.5	35.5	40.2	74.0	71.2	84.9	78.8	75.9	90.5	85.5	83.4	93.7
1985	31.2	30.1	35.0	75.1	70.3	91.5	81.0	77.6	92.7	86.8	84.5	94.8
1986	31.7	29.1	38.3	69.7	65.2	80.8	78.2	74.7	87.0	82.4	78.9	91.4
1987	35.2	31.7	44.1	72.6	68.6	82.6	78.0	74.9	85.6	83.0	80.7	89.0
1988	35.2	43.4	37.9	72.1	69.1	80.2	78.3	75.6	85.7	82.8	80.4	89.3
1989	33.9	30.7	42.8	67.4	63.1	79.3	74.9	70.1	87.9	80.5	76.8	90.4
1990	33.9	29.7	41.4	71.0	65.8	82.9	77.0	72.5	87.3	81.1	78.0	88.1
1991	33.6	29.2	43.0	72.3	65.5	86.8	79.6	74.8	89.9	83.2	79.3	91.5
1992	33.4	30.3	39.0	69.3	62.4	81.8	78.3	73.5	87.0	82.9	79.1	89.8
1993	32.1	26.8	40.5	69.2	65.0	76.1	76.8	72.6	83.7	83.2	80.0	88.5
1994	32.1	35.7	44.8	71.3	69.1	75.7	78.1	75.7	82.8	83.4	80.9	88.5
1995	36.1	30.5	45.7	68.2	61.9	79.2	76.1	70.8	85.3	83.4	79.4	90.2
1996	36.1	30.7	41.7	69.2	65.2	75.0	76.0	71.8	82.0	82.4	78.8	87.6
1997	37.8	32.0	46.6	65.3	59.2	74.7	74.1	68.5	82.7	79.0	73.4	87.7
1998	37.8	30.3	42.4	62.2	55.1	73.7	71.0	65.1	80.5	78.4	73.1	87.1
1999	28.9	22.5	38.6	54.9	47.5	66.2	66.1	57.9	78.6	73.1	65.2	84.9
2000	28.9	22.0	36.9	52.2	46.6	60.1	65.7	60.1	73.3	74.1	68.2	82.2

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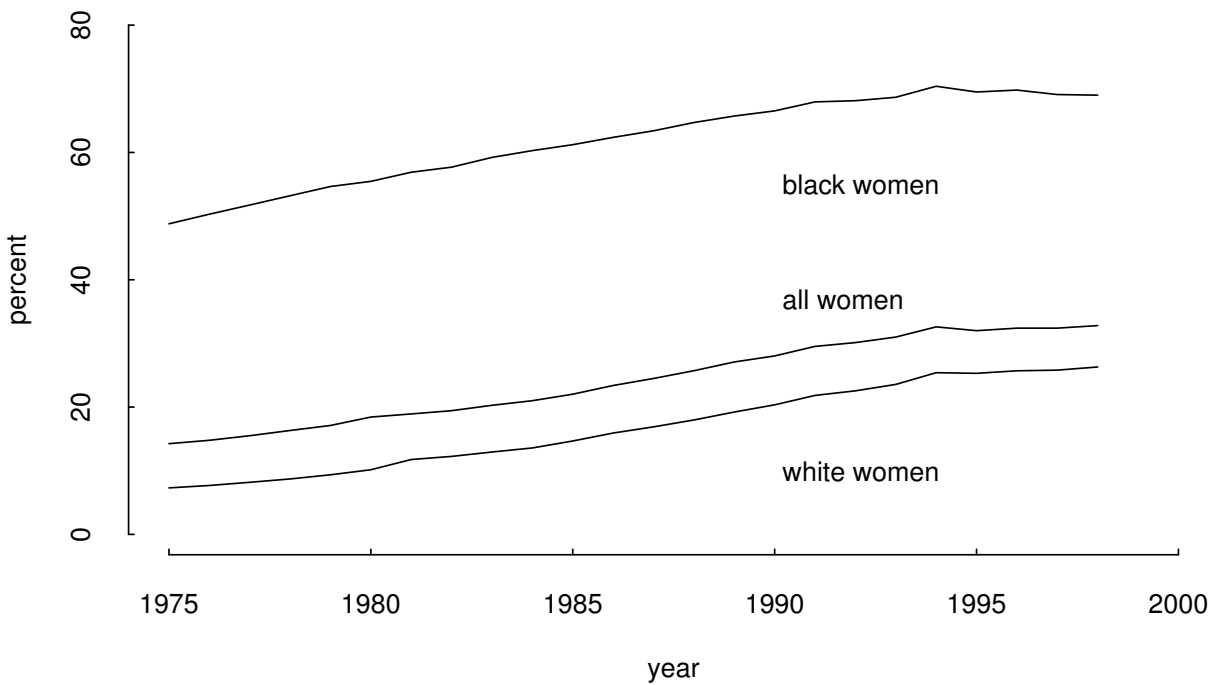


Figure 1: Percent of births to unmarried women, 1975–1998.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (Bachu 1999).

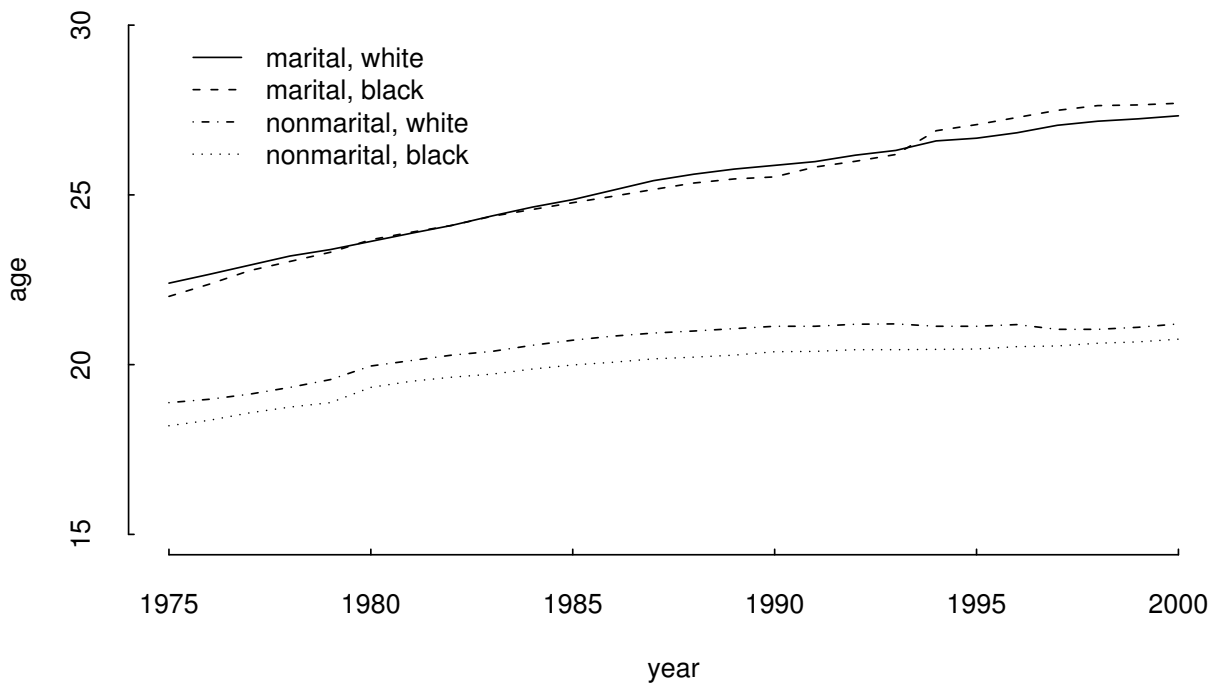


Figure 2: Mean age at first birth for marital and nonmarital first births for white and black women.

Source: Detailed Data on Natality, 1975–2000.

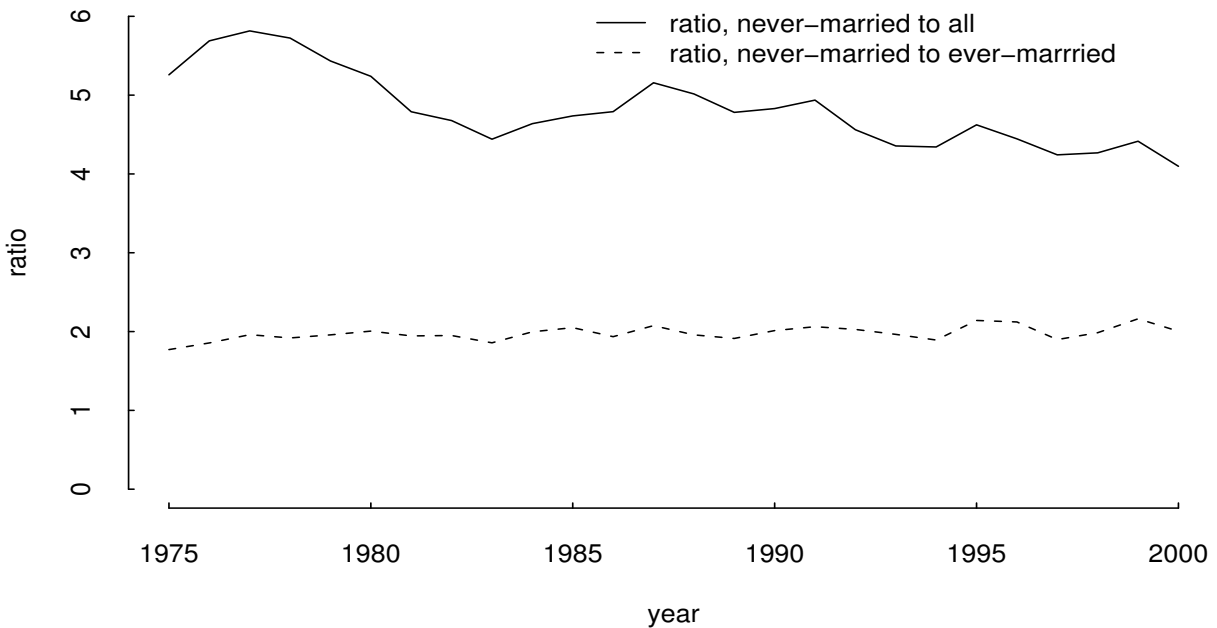
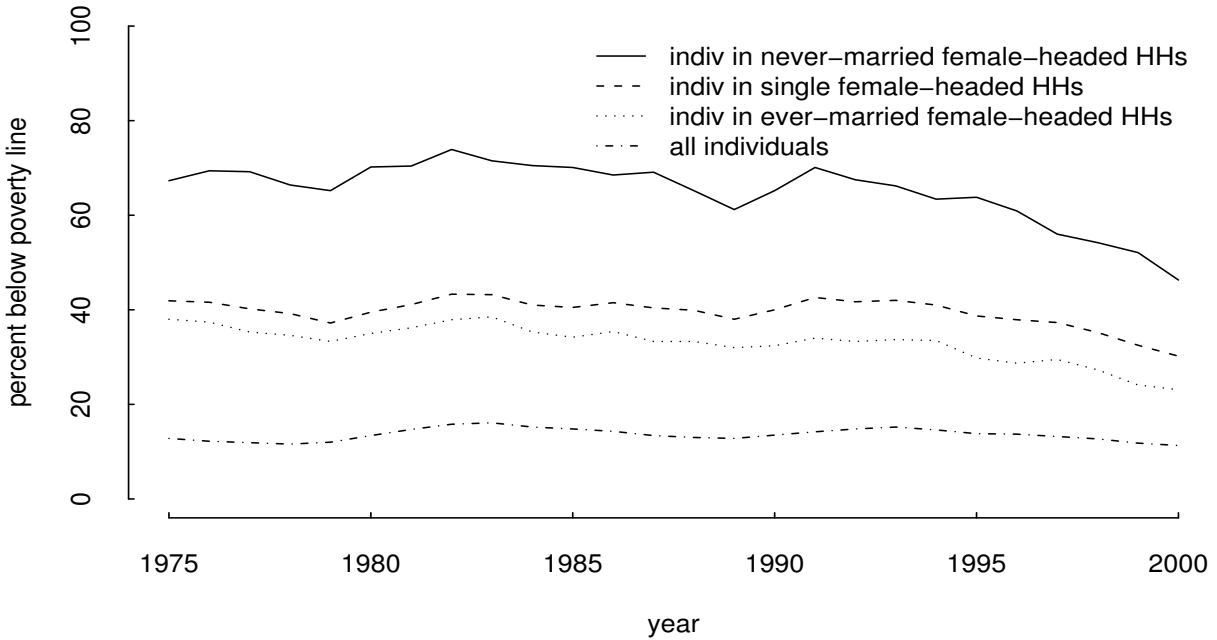


Figure 3: Poverty trends for individuals in: all households, single female-headed households, ever-married female-headed households, and never-married female-headed households; and the ratio of poverty for individuals in never-married female-headed households to poverty for all individuals and individuals in ever-married female-headed households.

Source: March CPS, 1976–2001.

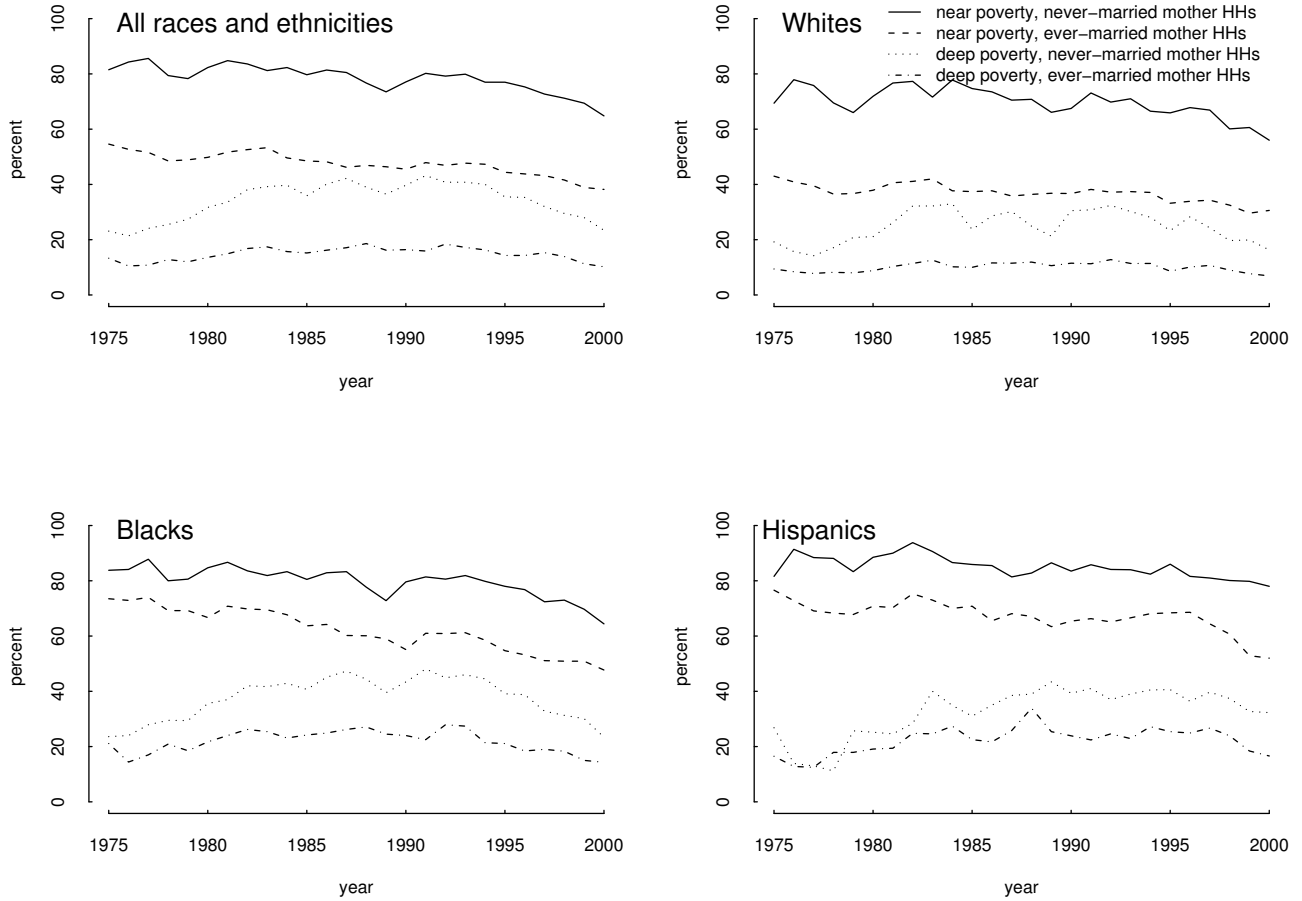


Figure 4: Near and deep poverty for individuals in ever-married and never-married mother-headed households.

Source: March CPS, 1976–2001.

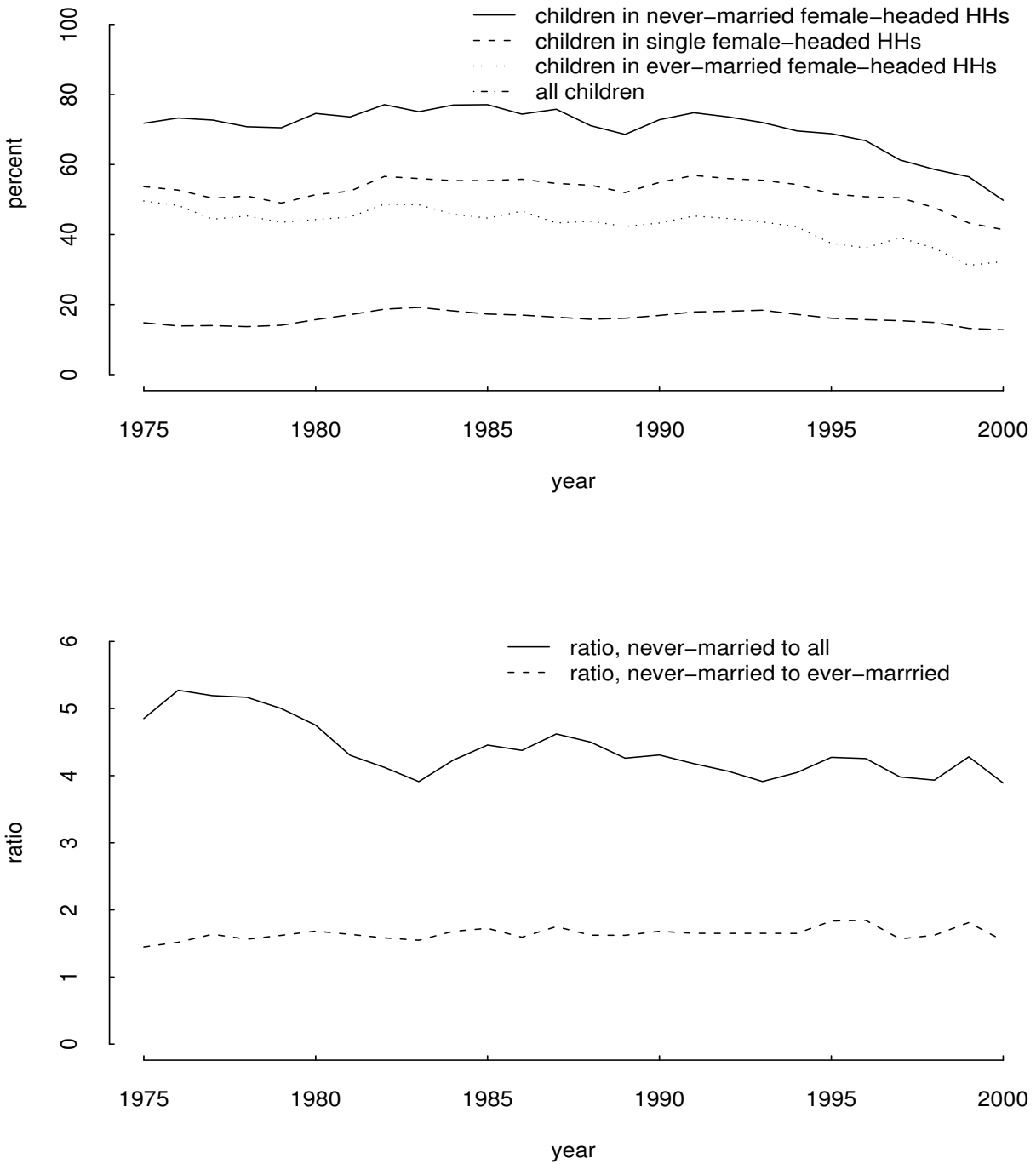


Figure 5: Poverty for children in: all households, single female-headed households, ever-married female-headed households, and never-married mother-headed households; and the ratio of poverty for children in never-married mother-headed households to poverty for all children and for children in ever-married female-headed

Source: March CPS, 1976–2001.

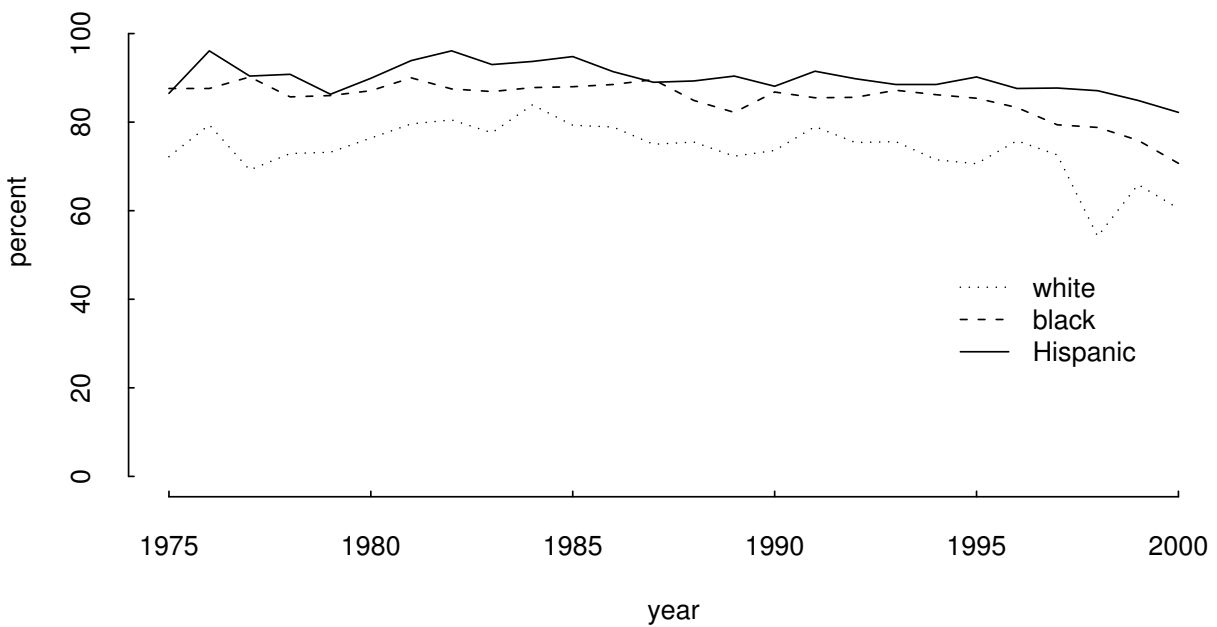


Figure 6: Near poverty for children by race and ethnicity.

Source: March CPS, 1976–2001.

Table 1: Poverty trends for all, single male-headed, and single female-headed households, 1975–2000.

year	All individuals				All individuals in single male-headed households				All individuals in single female-headed households			
	all races	white	black	Hispanic	all races	white	black	Hispanic	all races	white	black	Hispanic
1975	12.3%	8.6%	31.2%	26.8%	8.6%	6.5%	14.0%	17.5%	37.3%	25.7%	54.0%	57.0%
1976	11.8	8.1	31.1	24.7	10.6	8.4	18.2	12.7	37.2	24.5	55.7	56.6
1977	11.5	7.9	31.2	22.3	11.3	8.4	19.8	10.6	36.1	22.9	55.2	56.6
1978	11.3	7.9	30.5	21.6	9.7	6.6	17.0	19.8	35.5	22.2	54.2	56.6
1979	11.7	8.1	31.7	21.8	10.3	8.8	13.3	11.2	34.9	21.9	53.2	51.2
1980	13.0	9.1	32.4	25.7	12.0	9.4	18.4	15.3	36.7	24.1	53.4	54.5
1981	14.0	9.9	34.1	26.5	11.7	8.7	19.3	22.1	38.7	25.9	56.7	55.9
1982	15.0	10.6	35.6	29.9	15.1	11.6	26.3	18.9	40.6	26.3	58.7	60.1
1983	15.3	10.9	35.6	28.1	14.5	9.5	23.6	26.3	40.3	27.3	56.9	55.1
1984	14.4	10.0	33.7	28.4	14.7	9.3	28.1	18.9	38.4	25.1	54.5	56.2
1985	14.0	9.7	31.2	29.0	14.0	10.2	26.0	20.4	37.6	24.7	53.1	55.7
1986	13.6	9.4	31.1	27.3	12.7	8.0	28.1	16.5	38.3	26.0	53.8	52.9
1987	13.4	8.7	32.3	28.0	12.9	9.8	22.9	17.6	38.1	24.3	54.0	55.6
1988	13.0	8.4	31.4	26.7	12.7	9.7	22.1	14.2	37.2	23.7	51.9	55.0
1989	12.8	8.3	30.7	26.2	13.5	8.9	28.4	18.4	35.9	23.3	49.5	50.5
1990	13.5	8.8	31.8	28.1	12.6	8.6	20.7	20.2	37.2	25.0	50.4	53.0
1991	14.2	9.4	32.6	28.7	13.9	9.6	24.6	18.9	39.7	26.7	54.7	52.7
1992	14.8	9.6	33.2	29.6	16.8	11.6	25.3	28.4	39.0	25.8	54.0	51.5
1993	15.2	9.9	32.9	30.6	17.6	13.7	28.9	19.7	38.7	25.5	52.7	53.2
1994	14.5	9.4	30.5	30.7	18.9	12.2	32.5	27.8	38.6	26.1	50.1	54.8
1995	13.8	8.5	29.0	30.3	14.9	11.2	20.1	23.8	36.5	22.8	48.1	52.8
1996	13.7	8.6	28.1	29.4	14.5	10.7	20.0	23.7	35.8	23.3	46.1	53.5
1997	13.3	8.6	26.3	27.1	13.9	10.2	22.8	21.9	35.1	24.9	42.6	50.9
1998	12.7	8.2	25.9	25.6	13.2	8.5	21.1	21.0	33.1	22.0	42.5	46.6
1999	11.8	7.7	23.6	22.8	12.2	9.8	14.7	15.8	30.4	19.8	40.8	40.7
2000	11.3	7.5	21.9	21.2	12.3	9.9	19.1	13.2	27.9	18.1	38.1	36.5

Table 1a: Poverty trends for all, single male-headed, and single female-headed households, 1975–2000.

year	All individuals			All individuals in single male-headed households					All individuals in single female-headed households			
	white	black	Hispanic	all races	white	black	bla25	Hispanic	all races	white	black	Hispanic
1975	8.6%	31.2%	26.8%	8.6%	6.5%	14.0%	38.8%	17.5%	37.3%	25.7%	54.0%	57.0%
1980	9.1	32.4	25.7	12.0	9.4	18.4	32.6	15.3	36.7	24.1	53.4	54.5
1985	9.7	31.2	29.0	14.0	10.2	26.0	41.5	20.4	37.6	24.7	53.1	55.7
1990	8.8	31.8	28.1	12.6	8.6	20.7	46.6	20.2	37.2	25.0	50.4	53.0
1995	8.5	29.0	30.3	14.9	11.2	20.1	25.3	23.8	36.5	22.8	48.1	52.8
1996	8.6	28.1	29.4	14.5	10.7	20.0	24.2	23.7	35.8	23.3	46.1	53.5
1997	8.6	26.3	27.1	13.9	10.2	22.8	32.2	21.9	35.1	24.9	42.6	50.9
1998	8.2	25.9	25.6	13.2	8.5	21.1	30.5	21.0	33.1	22.0	42.5	46.6
1999	7.7	23.6	22.8	12.2	9.8	14.7	10.7	15.8	30.4	19.8	40.8	40.7
2000	7.5	21.9	21.2	12.3	9.9	19.1	20.5	13.2	27.9	18.1	38.1	36.5

Table 2: Difference between U.S. Census and March CPS estimates of poverty, selected groups, 1975–2000.

year	All individuals			All individuals in single female-headed households		
	all races	white	Hispanic	all races	white	Hispanic
1975	.01%	.02%	.06%	.20%	.15%	.16%
1976	.01	.01	-.03	.06	.12	.02
1977	.01	.02	.07	.08	.12	.04
1978	.01	.01	-.04	.09	.15	-.23
1979	-.00	-.00	-.00	-.00	-.00	-.01
1980	-.00	-.00	-.06	-.00	-.02	.03
1981	-.00	-.00	-.00	-.00	-.04	-.01
1982	-.00	-.00	.00	.00	-.04	.01
1983	-.09	-.11	-.06	-.10	-.17	-.05
1984	-.00	-.00	.00	.00	-.00	-.01
1985	.00	-.00	.00	.00	-.02	-.02
1986	.00	-.00	.00	.00	-.03	-.01
1987	.00	.00	-.00	.00	-.00	.01
1988	.00	.00	.00	-.00	.00	-.01
1989	-.00	.00	-.00	-.00	-.01	-.01
1990	.00	.00	-.00	-.00	-.00	.01
1991	-.00	-.00	-.00	-.01	.00	.01
1992	.00	-.00	-.00	-.03	-.02	-.01
1993	-.03	-.03	-.05	-.01	-.02	.01
1994	-.00	-.00	.00	.00	.01	-.00
1995	-.00	-.00	-.00	.00	.02	-.01
1996	-.00	.00	-.00	.00	.02	-.00
1997	.00	-.00	.00	-.00	.01	.00
1998	.00	-.00	.03	.02	-.00	.14
1999	-.00	-.00	.00	.12	-.03	-.23
2000	.07	.16	1.53	.61	.68	1.24